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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/657,458

Examiner

Susan F. Rayyan

Applicant(s)

AGRAWAL ET AL.

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/26/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 21-27, 31-34, now renumbered as 1-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Susan Rayyan
January 2, 2007

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 25-27 are directed to computer program product having a plurality of executable instruction codes stored on a computer readable medium.

Examiner has interpreted computer readable medium as claimed to exclude transmission media, signals, and forms of energy such that the claims fully falls within the statutory class of invention.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claim 1, prior art of record does not teach passing a content vector from a first content provider in a privacy group of the plurality of privacy groups to a second content provider in the privacy group of the plurality of privacy groups, the first and second content providers operating on the content vector with a randomized algorithm, sending a plurality of content vectors to a designated host, each content vector of the plurality of content vectors corresponding to a respective privacy group of the plurality of privacy groups and aggregating the plurality of content vectors into a materialized index comprising the privacy-preserving index structure.

Regarding independent claim 25, prior art of record does not teach a plurality of content providers comprising a set of instruction codes for cooperating to create a privacy-preserving index structure, a set of instruction codes for grouping the content providers into a plurality of privacy groups, a set of instruction codes for passing a content vector from a first content provider in a

privacy group of the plurality of privacy groups to a second content provider in the privacy group of the plurality of privacy groups, a set of instruction codes for enabling the first and second content providers to operate on the content vector with a randomized algorithm, a set of instruction codes for sending a plurality of content vectors to a designated host, each content vector of the plurality of content vectors corresponding to a respective privacy group of the plurality of privacy groups and a set of instruction codes for aggregating the plurality of content vectors into a materialized index comprising the privacy-preserving index structure.

Regarding claim 31, prior art of record does not teach means for passing a content vector from a first content provider in a privacy group of the plurality of privacy groups to a second content provider in the privacy group of the plurality of privacy groups, means for enabling the first and second content providers to operate on the content vector with a randomized algorithm, means for sending a plurality of content vectors to a designated host, each content vector of the plurality of content vectors corresponding to a respective privacy group of the plurality of privacy groups and means for aggregating the plurality of content vectors into a materialized index comprising the privacy-preserving index structure.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should

preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled


"Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.


Contact Information

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan F. Rayyan whose telephone number is 571-272-1675. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Susan Rayyan
January 2, 2008


JOHN COTTINGHAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNICAL